

# SCHOOL COMPOST GUIDE AT A GLANCE:

## Administrators

### What is the School Compost Guide?

The School Compost Guide is intended to serve as a detailed implementation plan to support Brookline Public Schools in launching and/or expanding composting programs in partnership with the Department of Public Works (DPW).

### What is Composting & Why is it Important?

- Composting is the process of recycling organic matter, such as leaves and food scraps, into fertilizer to enrich the soil.
- In MA, over 1 million tons of organic material are sent to landfill or burned at the incinerator each year.
- Composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions and combats climate change.



## ACTION ITEMS

### Want to Launch a Compost Program at Your School?

- **Read the School Compost Guide** and check out the pre-composting checklist on pages 4-6 (available at [www.brooklinema.gov/schoolcomposting](http://www.brooklinema.gov/schoolcomposting)).
- **Speak to your peers and colleagues about a compost program** and seek out others in your school's community who are supportive of the idea.
- **Notify the DPW Zero Waste Program** at [zerowaste@brooklinema.gov](mailto:zerowaste@brooklinema.gov) to inform staff of your interest in launching a composting program.

### Want to Support an Existing Compost Program at Your School?

- **Consider joining your school's "Compost Steering Committee"**, or the group of staff and students that are overseeing and coordinating the compost program! Contact [zerowaste@brooklinema.gov](mailto:zerowaste@brooklinema.gov) to learn more.
- **Encourage teachers and paraprofessionals who are on lunch duty to help monitor waste stations** when possible and support students as they sort their waste.
- Work with the DPW to **incentivize students to sort their waste properly and serve as waste station monitors** in the lunchroom.
- **Announce reminders about the composting program** to the student body throughout the year.
- Encourage teachers to **integrate composting activities and resources into the classroom**.
- **Recognize "composting leaders"** in your school community and **celebrate your school's waste diversion accomplishments**. The Guide includes a list of suggested communication strategies to celebrate success (page 24).